

EDAC  
File

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

10 September 1957

Acting Chief, Services Division

CIA "Positions" at Economic Defense Community Committee Meetings

REFERENCE: Our Telephone Conversation of 9 September

1. Since the Economic Defense Organization within ORR came under the jurisdiction of D/S, both Mr. [REDACTED] and I have carefully avoided taking positions at interagency meetings which could be construed as recommending, for CIA, actions which are properly within the purview of other agencies. Similarly, analysts within S/ED have repeatedly been advised to avoid placing themselves in any circumstance whereby their statements could be construed as recommending US Government policies or actions.

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2. Specifically, should the question arise at some later date, you might cite from EDAC document D-127/6, dated 20 March 1957, attachment II, the following paragraph which reflects the position consistently taken by CIA members:


"CIA has provided intelligence support, where available, on the items considered within the critical sectors chosen. CIA does not, by its authority, take a position vis-a-vis the inclusion or exclusion of particular items considered or proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group."

In the current exercise within EDAC, of which the ORR paper MP-186, Intelligence Review - Strategic Trade Controls, is a part, CIA has again consistently disclaimed any intention or desire to recommend policy actions. Rather, the contribution is a reply to a requirement laid on CIA, by EDAC, to provide all available intelligence on the large group of items currently on the International Lists. ORR has, as requested, evaluated the defensibility or indefensibility of these items based on this review of pertinent intelligence. EDAC Working Group I memoranda to the EDAC Executive Committee which contain the Working Group's comments on the CIA paper carry the following specific notation: "CIA determinations are made from an intelligence point of view and do not constitute recommendations for action."

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3. Personnel engaged in this review have been cautioned again today regarding CIA's responsibility to avoid taking "positions." During subsequent meetings of the EDAC Executive Committee I will again make this point clear to the members at the appropriate time and will see to it that the recommendations passed on to EDAC from the Executive Committee contain a footnote to this effect. Should you receive an indication from any other agencies that CIA representation has in fact violated this principle, I would recommend and ask your approval of appropriate disciplinary action for the individual involved.

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